(b) if so, what is the total number of migrants, State-wise, killed so far;

(c) to what extent situation has been brought under control; and

(d) whether stringent measures have been suggested to avoid such exigency in future in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) and (b) Between 5-8 January 2007, ULFA killed 61 Hindi speaking persons, mostly seasonal labourers and petty vendors in Upper Assam.

(c) and (d) The Government of Assam has strengthened security to protect the vulnerable sections of the society. Additional Central Police Forces and Army units have been deployed for coordinated action against ULFA and other extremists groups. Government is also helping the State Government in enhancing the capabilities of the State by modernization of State Police Forces and reimbursement of Security Related Expenditure. The security situation in Assam is also reviewed in the meetings of the Unified Hqrs chaired by the Chief Minister of Assam from time to time. Government of India is also monitoring the situation at periodic intervals.

Prevention of custodial deaths

928. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were 359 deaths in the police custody in the past three years and according to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) figures, as many as 144 out of the 359 custodial deaths were reported in 2005 alone;

(b) whether it is a fact that deaths were reported not only when victims had been remanded to police custody by court, but occurred in cases where police took suspects into detention; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to prevent the custodial deaths?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) Statement-I is enclosed (*See* below).

(b) Yes, Sir. Statement-II is enclosed (*See* below).

(c) As per the guidelines issued by the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), the State/Union Territory Authorities are under obligation to report every death whether in police custody or in judicial custody within 24 hours of its occurrence irrespective of the cause of death of the deceased. The NHRC calls for reports to find out if there is any action of omission or commission on the part of a public servant which may have resulted in violation of human rights of the deceased. The major percentage is of those dying of natural death.

The Chairperson and Members of the NHRC during their visits to the States/Union Territories always emphasize upon state functionaries the need to curb the occurrence of custodial deaths. Besides, the NHRC from time to time, while disposing of cases of custodial deaths, makes appropriate observations to the State authorities to prevent recurrence of such custodial deaths in future.

Statement-I

As per records available with the National Crime Records Bureau, the number of death cases in Police Custody during the last three years is as under:

	Year	No. of death cases
1.	2003	94
2.	2004	86
3.	2005	128
	TOTAL:	308

Statement-II

Deaths during detention

2003			2004			2005			
Death reported (person remanded to Police Custody)	Death reported (person not remanded to Police Custody)	Total	Death reported (person remanded to Police Custody)	Death reported (person Not remanded to Police Custody)	Total	Death reported (person remanded to Police Custody)	Death reported (person Not remanded to Police Custody)	Total	Grand Total
33	61	94	37	49	86	67	61	128	308